

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:
 - using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote client to a host;
 - receiving the trigger;
 - authenticating the trigger; and
 - opening the covert service channel to allow a connection with the remote host.
2. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a protocol to format the transport mechanism.
3. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a backscatter effect as the trigger.
4. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes opening a port.
5. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a reply to the remote client.
6. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes spawning a service if the trigger is authenticated.

7. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes establishing a connection between the remote client and a service on the host.

8. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes receiving a request from the remote client.

9. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a response by an operating system on the host to the remote client.

10. (Currently amended) A method ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending an address from the host to the remote client for establishing the connection.

11. (Currently amended) A system for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:
a transport mechanism for sending a trigger from a remote client to a host; and
a stealth application on the host for receiving the trigger from the remote client, authenticating the trigger on the target host, and opening the covert service channel on the host to allow a connection with the remote client.

12. (Currently amended) A system ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 11 wherein the transport mechanism is installed on the host.

13. (Currently amended) A system ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a data packet.

14. (Currently amended) A system ~~for remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a pre-defined sequence of packets.

15. (Currently amended) A system for ~~remotely activating a service channel~~ as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a backscatter data packet.

16. (Currently amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

receiving a trigger at a port on a host;
suppressing a response to the trigger;
authenticating the trigger; and
activating the covert service channel by opening the port on the host if the trigger is authenticated.

17. (Currently amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

[[S]]sending a pre-defined trigger to a port on a host;
[[W]]waiting for a pre-defined time period;
[[S]]sending a connection request to the port on the host after the pre-defined time period has expired; and
[[E]]establishing a connection over the covert service channel with the host.

18. (Currently amended) A method for remotely activating a covert service channel comprising:

receiving a trigger at a service port on a host remotely communicating with a server;
directing an operating system to suppress sending a response to the trigger;
authenticating the trigger based on a characteristic of the trigger; and
opening the service port on the host to permit a connection to occur over the covert service channel.

19. (Original) A computer program product for remotely activating a covert service channel, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote host to a target host;
receiving the trigger by a stealth application on the target host;

authenticating the trigger on the target host; and
opening the covert service channel on the target host to allow a connection with the
remote host.

20. (Cancelled)